



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2015

Technical colleges in Georgia and Brazil form new partnership

Gubernatorial mission increases international educational opportunities

Atlanta, Ga.—College students in Georgia and Brazil will soon be able to take advantage of additional reciprocal educational and training opportunities, thanks to an agreement between the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and São Paulo's technical education system, Centro Paula Souza (CPS). A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed today in Brazil by TCSG Commissioner Gretchen Corbin and CPS Director Laura Laganá during an economic development mission led by Gov. Nathan Deal.

“International companies in Georgia look to our technical colleges every day to provide the skilled workforce they need to stay competitive,” said Commissioner Corbin. “This agreement with São Paulo’s technical system is not only key to expanding TCSG’s global outreach, it is an outstanding educational opportunity for students in both Georgia and Brazil. It encourages joint educational and economic development activities, exchange of staff and students and the exchange of visiting scholars to conduct research and professional development.”

“TCSG and CPS Colleges of Technology, through this partnership, have a myriad of opportunities for mutual cooperation on the field of professional higher education, which will effectively contribute to the development of both states,” said CPS Director Laura Laganá.

The MOU provides a formal pathway for TCSG and CPS students to engage in internships, language training, short-term cultural exchange trips for staff members and students, joint student projects and traditional semester exchanges. In addition, the agreement facilitates increased cooperation between the educational agencies and local and regional chambers of commerce, municipal and provincial or state governmental agencies, hospitals, local and regional businesses, and manufacturing and industrial enterprises.

These cross-border educational opportunities will benefit students and faculty and provide world-class workforce training and management development for industries and other organizations, both in Georgia and in São Paulo. The MOU will be administered in Georgia by TCSG’s International Center for Technical Education, which collaborates with countries and colleges to develop and improve their technical workforce through higher education partnerships and the sharing of people, programs and best practices. The office works closely with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the University System of Georgia, and TCSG’s own Quick Start customized workforce training program.

Georgia has had representation in Brazil for more than two decades. More than 12,000 Georgians are employed by 40 Brazilian-owned businesses. Gov. Deal is leading a delegation of state and local business leaders on an economic development mission in Brazil to establish

new business relationships, strengthen existing ties and promote Georgia as an excellent tourism destination and quality source for products and services. The Georgia delegation represents some of Georgia's greatest economic development assets in business, education, tourism, trade and workforce.

About Centro Paula Souza

CPS is an agency of the State of São Paulo, linked to the Department of Economic Development, Science, Technology and Innovation. The agency manages 218 state technical high schools and 64 Colleges of Technology, which serve over 283,000 students in middle-level technical courses and technology majors.

About the Technical College System of Georgia

The 23 colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia are Georgia's top resource for skilled workers, serving more than 140,000 students each year and providing customized training for regional, national and international businesses and industries. TCSG offers world-class training in 600 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs to students who are trained on state-of-the-art equipment by instructors who are experts in their fields. TCSG partners with companies through Quick Start, the nation's top customized workforce training program, and through its individual colleges, who work with local industry to provide workforce and training solutions.

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